

SINGAPORE



Singapore is one of the world's busiest container ports and a major transshipment hub for Asia. As such, it has long been a focus of U.S. nonproliferation efforts in the region. Singapore is the United States' 16th largest trading partner and a key supporter of open markets and a strong U.S. presence in the Asia-Pacific. Singapore's importance to regional communications, finance, energy, and transportation also makes it an important partner in efforts to deter, detect, and interdict the flow of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), their delivery systems, related technology, and advanced conventional weapons. U.S. assistance will continue to focus on combating WMD proliferation and countering terrorist threats against the United States and U.S. interests in Singapore and the region. This will be accomplished by building on existing intelligence, law-enforcement, and security cooperation and by expanding training and investigative assistance. Singapore participates in the Proliferation Security Initiative, the Container Security Initiative, and the Mega ports program to detect radioactive material in cargo.

FOREIGN RELATIONS: Singapore is nonaligned. It is a member of the United Nations and several of its specialized and related agencies, and also of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Commonwealth. Singapore has participated in UN peacekeeping/observer missions in Kuwait, Angola, Namibia, Cambodia, and Timor-Leste. Singapore has deployed naval ships, air force transport planes, and refueling tankers to the Persian Gulf to support the multinational coalition effort to bring stability and security to Iraq. It has also supported a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan. Singapore supports the concept of Southeast Asian regionalism and plays an active role in ASEAN, the ASEAN Regional Forum, and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

U.S.-SINGAPORE RELATIONS: The United States has maintained formal diplomatic relations with Singapore since it became independent in 1965. Singapore's efforts to maintain economic growth and political stability and its support for regional cooperation harmonize with U.S. policy in the region and form a solid basis for amicable relations between the two countries. The United States and Singapore signed a bilateral free trade agreement on May 6, 2003; the agreement entered into force on January 1, 2004. The growth of U.S. investment in Singapore and the large number of Americans living there enhance opportunities for contact between Singapore and the United States. Many Singaporeans visit and study in the United States. Singapore is a Visa Waiver Program country.

The U.S. Government sponsors visitors from Singapore each year under the International Visitor Program. The U.S. Government provides Fulbright awards to enable selected American professors to teach or conduct research at the National University of Singapore and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. It awards scholarships to outstanding Singaporean students for graduate studies at American universities and to American students to study in Singapore. The U.S. Government also sponsors occasional cultural presentations in Singapore. The East-West Center and private American organizations, such as the Asia and Ford Foundations, also sponsor exchanges involving Singaporeans.

Peace and Security: Foreign assistance activities funded through the Department of State's Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) program support Singapore's efforts to bring the country's strategic trade control system in line with multilateral nonproliferation norms and to improve enforcement capabilities. In FY 2010, EXBS programs will help Singapore establish its own internal commodity

identification training program and better investigate cases involving the illegal shipment of controlled or dual-use items. EXBS programs will also facilitate information exchange between U.S. and Singapore officials.